Is it recommended to install a 100Mbps router with fiber optic cable

Overview

For wired networks under 100M fiber, it''s unnecessary—you won''t see improved speeds. But for wireless performance, especially with modern devices, a gigabit router can make ...

Key Takeaways

Yes, a 100Mbps fiber optic connection can be used with a router, provided the router has a WAN Ethernet port, but the router's speed will limit the maximum throughput. How Fiber Connects to a RouterFiber optic internet delivers data as light signals, which must be converted into electrical signals for your router. This conversion is handled by an Optical Network Terminal (ONT), typically installed by your ISP.

The fiber cable plugs into the ONT, and an Ethernet cable runs from the ONT to your router's WAN port. Most standard routers can connect to the ONT via Ethernet, so technically, any router with a WAN port can work with fiber.

Router Speed Considerations

If your router's WAN port is rated for 100Mbps, it will cap your internet speed at 100Mbps, even if your fiber plan supports higher speeds. Similarly, older routers with limited processing power or outdated Wi-Fi standards (like Wi-Fi 4/802. 11n) may not deliver full performance to connected devices.

For optimal use of fiber, routers with Gigabit Ethernet (1000Mbps) WAN ports and modern Wi-Fi standards (Wi-Fi 5/6/6E) are recommended.

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Practical Implications

Existing Router: You can use it with a 100Mbps fiber plan without issues, but upgrading to a gigabit router is advisable if you plan to increase your speed in the future. Connection Setup: Fiber → ONT → Ethernet cable → Router WAN port → Devices. Performance: Your maximum internet speed will be limited by the router's WAN port and internal hardware.

In summary, a 100Mbps fiber connection is compatible with most routers, but the router's specifications determine the actual speed you experience. Using a router with a 100Mbps WAN port is sufficient for a 100Mbps plan, but for higher-speed fiber plans, a gigabit-capable router is necessary to fully utilize the connection.

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